

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

a liquid pervious sheet;

a liquid impervious sheet; and

an absorbent structure including an absorbent core and being disposed between the liquid pervious sheet and the liquid impervious sheet, wherein

standing cuffs for surrounding wearer's legs are provided at respective opposite sides of said disposable absorbent article,

said liquid pervious sheet has a width greater than that of said absorbent structure so that said liquid pervious sheet has laterally extended portions extending beyond respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure,

each of said standing cuffs comprises a standing sheet having two ~~layers~~ layers and stretching members provided under tension to the standing sheet between said two layers, wherein

the standing sheet has a terminal proximal edge fixed directly to a corresponding one of the laterally extended portions of said liquid pervious sheet, said proximal edge defining a base line extending in a direction parallel to a longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article,

said two layered standing sheet comprising a standing portion, a folding back portion, and a surface contacting portion, the standing portion extending, on the corresponding one of the laterally extended portions, from the base line to the folding back portion in a lateral direction with respect to said base line toward the longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article, the two layered sheet being folded back at the folding back portion, and the surface contacting portion extending, on the standing portion, from the folding back portion to a terminal distal edge in a lateral direction with respect to the longitudinal center line toward the base line,

two or more of said stretching members provided to the standing sheet are arranged adjacent the distal edge of said surface-contacting portion such that said two or more members are closer to the distal edge than the folding back portion, said two or more stretching members being spaced apart from each other, the distal edge being an edge which is distal from the folding back portion,

at least one of said stretching members provided to the standing sheet is arranged in said standing portion at said base line such that said at least one stretching member is closer to the base line than the folding back portion,

at least one of said stretching members provided to the standing sheet is arranged adjacent the folding back portion such that it is closer to the folding back portion than to the distal edge and the base line,

during use of said disposable absorbent article, each of said standing cuffs is deformed by contractile force of said stretching members such that the standing portion extends in a substantially vertical direction relative to the corresponding

one of the laterally extended portions and the base line, and the surface-contacting portion pivots upwardly toward a corresponding one of the wearer's legs from the folding back portion but said distal edge remains laterally outwardly of the folding back portion,

portions of the standing portion located at respective front and back ends of the disposable absorbent article are directly fixed to the pervious sheet, and portions of the surface-contacting portion located at the respective front and back ends of the disposable absorbent article are directly fixed to the respective portions of the standing portion so that said standing and surface contacting portions overlie each other and are parallel to each other and the liquid pervious sheet, the front and back ends respectively extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the disposable absorbent article, and the respective opposite sides of the disposable absorbent article extending further outward from the respective laterally extended portions.

27-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein the folding back portion is located outside of an area over said absorbent core.

49. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein

a back sheet is disposed on a back-side of said liquid impervious sheet, and said liquid impervious sheet has a width greater than that of said absorbent structure so that said liquid impervious sheet has laterally extended portions extending beyond said respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein the two or more of said stretching members arranged in the vicinity of said distal edge of said surface-contacting portion has a size of 400 d to 640 d and a contraction percentage of 160% to 300%, and the at least one of said stretching members arranged in said standing portion has a size of 640 d to 2100 d and a contraction percentage of 150% to 250%.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, further comprising stretching members disposed between said liquid impervious sheet and said absorbent structure to lift the respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure, the stretching members extending along a direction parallel to the longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article.

54. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 53, wherein

said absorbent core has a hourglass-like shape having a widest width portion and a narrowest width portion, the narrowest width portion including side portions for respectively encircling the wearer's legs, and

said stretching members disposed between said liquid impervious sheet and said absorbent structure are arranged to overlap the widest width portion, but not overlap the narrowest width portion.

55. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, further comprising stretching members disposed between said liquid impervious sheet and said absorbent core to lift the respective opposite sides of said absorbent structure, the stretching members extending along a direction parallel to the longitudinal centerline of said disposable absorbent article.

56-61. (Cancelled)